

Farmers' Market Committee
Minutes
Meeting December 10, 2009

Present: Carol Keaster (Cascade), Vicky Tusler (Custer), Connie Udem and Brenda Mischel (Dawson), Barb Skoyen (Fort Belknap), Darcy Hunter (Gallatin), Mary Pittaway and Arwyn Welandar (Missoula), Gayle Espeseth (Riverstone), Julia Coyne (Silver Bow), Cheryl Kikkert (Farmers' Markets); and Joan Bowsher, Chris Fogelman, Trish Kurek and Carrie Reynolds (State Office)

Topic/Points	Notes
Welcome	
Why interested in participating on the committee?	All members described why they were interested in serving on this committee.
History and State's position	Joan explained that we had heard from farmers when we made some changes to the food packages a while ago. MT has WIC FMNP in place, but it is a small grant and is not able to provide all of those interested with benefits. MT would like participants to be able to use their fruit and vegetables benefit at FM as well. We would like to see the use of FM by WIC participants expand.
Should participants be able to redeem fruit and vegetable benefits at FMs and roadside stands?	The group agreed that yes, they should be able to do this.
Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can WIC contract with markets rather than farmers? EBT contracts with markets, who then contracts with farmers. MM is responsible for training farmers, providing posters, POS scan of EBT cards for tokens to spend. • Have we thought about piloting in certain areas? • Will we be requiring someone be at the market? • In Dawson, the MM trains the farmer who then takes the benefits. The farmer takes them to the MM for a stamp. If the MM paid the farmer for the benefits and submitted them to their own bank what would happen if the benefits were rejected? Would the MM have enough cash on hand to pay the farmers? • Could the same stamp be used for WIC 	Answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will have to check into the regulations about contracting with the MM and they subcontract with the farmers. The WIC fruit and vegetable benefits will be in check form (at least for the next few years). Each farmer could be issued a stamp • Had not considered piloting, but we will look at it. • Probably not. There are many issues of staffing, such as having adequate staff, policies of the employer (not the State), and multiple markets to cover in some areas. • Yes, the MM would be responsible for the rejected benefits or figuring out how to get a refund from the farmer. The amount of cash could be significant in the larger markets. • Yes, we would like to be able to do that.

Topic/Points	Notes
<p>FMNP and WIC fruit and vegetable benefits?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the participant have to use all of the benefit at the same farmer? Can WIC FMNP be given at the FM? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, if the benefit is for \$4, they would have to spend all \$4 at the same farmer. The same if it were for \$10. They can be, as long as all of the requirements for issuance to a valid participant, nutrition education and documentation are met. A system would have to be in place to prevent overissuance (more than one set in a season for a participant).
<p>If possible, should MT contract with the market rather than the farmer?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ In Cascade, the MM does not do anything with the WIC FMNP, they may not do anything with the WIC fruit and vegetable benefit. (Comment was made that maybe Cascade should contact local Aging Services and work with them.) ❖ Dawson would like to see agreement with market rather than farmer. ❖ Benefit the local farmer as much as possible and make the programs as similar as possible. ❖ Anything to streamline would be good. ❖ Contracting with the market may avoid the issue of the farmers who are there only a short time and not being able to get signed up.
<p>Should MT contract with roadside stands</p>	<p>Most said yes.</p>
<p>Other comments</p>	<p>In Montana regulations, a farm can be a farmers' market. Cheryl has names of market masters and farmers if we want contact information.</p>
<p>Next call will be January 8, 2010 at 8:30am; call-in information is 1-866-910-4857; passcode is 768324.</p>	<p>Chris will have speaker phone set up for those interested in attending while at the M-SPIRIT training in Billings.</p>

MT – Montana

FM – farmers' market

MM – market master

EBT – electronic benefit transfer, looks like a credit card, the benefits are loaded onto the card and can be removed at certain types of terminals as purchases are made.